

Commission on Civil Rights

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record of the particular record disclosed, the name and address of the person or agency to whom or to which disclosed, and the date, nature and purpose of the disclosure.

(b) No accounting is required for disclosures of records to those officials and employees of the Commission who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties, or if disclosure would be required under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

(c) The accounting shall be maintained for 5 years or until the record is destroyed or transferred to the National Archives and Record Service for storage, in which event, the accounting pertaining to those records, unless maintained separately, shall be transferred with the records themselves.

(d) The accounting of disclosures may be recorded in any system the Commission determines is sufficient for this purpose, however, the Commission must be able to construct from its system a listing of all disclosures. The system of accounting of disclosures is not a system of records under the definition in §705.2(e) and no accounting need be maintained for disclosure of the accounting of disclosures.

(e) Upon request of an individual to whom a record pertains, the accounting of the disclosures of that record shall be made available to the requester, provided that he/she has complied with §705.3(a) and with §705.4(c) or (d).

[42 FR 12047, Mar. 2, 1977]

PART 706—EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 101–106, 71 Stat. 634–636, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1975–1975e) Pub. L. 95–521, as amended, 5 CFR 735.

SOURCE: 44 FR 75152, Dec. 19, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 706.1 Adoption of regulations.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 735.104(f) and 735.502, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) hereby adopts, with appropriate modifications, relevant sections of Part 735 of Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations as renumbered and set forth below.

§ 706.2 Purpose.

The maintenance of unusually high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and conduct by Government employees and special Government employees is essential to assure the proper performance of the Government's business and the maintenance of confidence by citizens in their Government. The avoidance of misconduct and conflicts of interest on the part of Government employees and special Government employees through informed judgment is indispensable to the maintenance of these standards. To accord

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with these concepts, this part sets forth the United States Commission on Civil Rights' regulations covering the agency's employees and special Government employees, prescribing standards of conduct and responsibilities, and governing statements reporting employment and financial interests.

§ 706.3 Definitions.

In this part:

Commission means the United States Commission on Civil Rights, an Executive agency as defined by Section 105 of Title 5, United States Code.

Employee means an officer or employee of the Commission including a special Government employee, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202.

Executive order means Executive Order 11222 of May 8, 1965.

Person means an individual, a corporation, a company, an association, a firm, a partnership, a society, a joint stock company, or any other organization or institution.

§ 706.4 Distribution.

(a) Within 90 days after publication of these regulations in the FEDERAL REGISTER the Commission shall furnish each employee with a copy of the regulations.

(b) The Commission shall furnish all new employees with a copy of the regulations at the time of their entrance on duty.

(c) The Commission shall bring the regulations to the attention of each employee annually, and at such other times as circumstances warrant.

(d) The Commission shall have available for review by employees copies of relevant laws, the Executive order, and pertinent Commission instructions relating to ethical and other standards of conduct.

§ 706.5 Counseling.

The Solicitor of the Commission shall serve as the agency's ethical conduct counselor and is the designated agency official for the purposes of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-521. The Solicitor shall respond to requests by employees and special Government employees for advice and guidance respecting questions of ethical conduct, conflicts of interest, re-

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porting of financial interests and other matters of law covered by these regulations.

§ 706.6 Disciplinary and other remedial action.

An employee of the Commission who violates any of the regulations in this part may be disciplined. The disciplinary action may be in addition to any penalty prescribed by law for the violation. In addition to or in lieu of disciplinary action, remedial action to end conflicts or appearance of conflicts of interests may include but is not limited to:

- (a) Changes in assigned duties;
- (b) Divestment by an employee of any conflicting interest; or
- (c) Disqualification for a particular assignment.

§ 706.7 Outside employment and other activity.

Employees of the Commission may engage in outside employment or other outside activity not incompatible with the full and proper discharge of the duties and responsibilities of their Government employment. Employees who wish to engage in outside employment shall first obtain the approval, in writing, of their supervisor.

§ 706.8 Prohibition against disclosure of evidence.

All employees of the Commission are subject to the prohibition on disclosure of evidence taken in executive session contained in Section 102(g) of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, 71 Stat. 634, as amended.

Subpart B—Ethical and Other Conduct and Responsibilities of Employees

§ 706.9 Proscribed actions.

An employee shall avoid any action, whether or not specifically prohibited by this subpart, which might result in, or create the appearance of:

- (a) Using public office for private gain;
- (b) Giving preferential treatment to any person;
- (c) Impeding Commission efficiency or economy;

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(d) Making a Commission decision outside official channels;

(e) Losing complete independence or impartiality; or

(f) Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Commission.

§ 706.10 Gifts, entertainment and favors.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e) of this section, an employee shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan, or any other thing of monetary value from a person who:

(1) Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with the Commission;

(2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the Commission; or

(3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duty.

(b) Exceptions from the prohibitions contained in paragraph (a) of this section are as follows:

(1) Gifts, entertainment and favors which derive from family or personal relationships (such as those between parents, children, or spouse of the employee and the employee) when the circumstances make it clear that it is those relationships rather than the business of the persons concerned which are the motivating factors;

(2) Acceptance of food and refreshments of nominal value on infrequent occasions in the ordinary course of a luncheon or dinner meeting or other meeting or on an inspection tour where an employee may properly be in attendance;

(3) Acceptance of loans from banks or other financial institutions on customary terms to finance proper and usual activities of employees, such as home mortgage loans; and

(4) Acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional material, such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars, and other items of nominal intrinsic value.

(c) Employees shall not solicit a contribution from another employee for a gift to an official superior, make a donation as a gift to an official superior, or accept a gift from an employee re-

ceiving less pay than themselves. This paragraph, however, does not prohibit a voluntary gift of nominal value or donation in a nominal amount made on a special occasion such as marriage, illness, or retirement.

(d) An employee shall not accept a gift, present, decoration, or other thing from a foreign government unless authorized by Congress as provided by the Constitution and 5 U.S.C. 7342.

(e) Neither this section nor § 706.11 precludes an employee from receipt of bona fide reimbursement, unless prohibited by law, for expenses of travel and such other necessary subsistence as is compatible with this part, for which no Government payment or reimbursement is made. This paragraph, however, does not allow employees to be reimbursed, or payment to be made on their behalf, for excessive personal living expenses, gifts, entertainment or other personal benefits.

§ 706.11 Proscribed outside employment and other activities.

(a) An employee shall not engage in outside employment or other outside activity not compatible with the full and proper discharge of the duties and responsibilities of Government employment. Incompatible activities include but are not limited to:

(1) Acceptance of a fee, compensation, gift, payment of expense, or any other thing of monetary value in circumstances in which acceptance may result in, or create the appearance of conflicts of interest; or

(2) Outside employment which tends to impair mental or physical capacity to perform Governmental duties and responsibilities in an acceptable manner.

(b) An employee shall not receive any salary or anything of monetary value from a private source as compensation for service to the Government as prohibited by 18 U.S.C. 209.

(c) Employees are encouraged to engage in teaching, lecturing, and writing that is not prohibited by law, the Executive order, or Commission regulations. An employee shall not, either for or without compensation, engage in teaching, lecturing, or writing, including teaching, lecturing, or writing for the purpose of the special preparation

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of a person or class of persons for an examination of the Office of Personnel Management or Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service, that depends on information obtained as a result of Government employment, except when that information has been made available to the general public or will be made available on request, or when the agency head gives written authorization for use of nonpublic information on the basis that the use is in the public interest. In addition, an employee who is a Presidential appointee covered by section 401(a) of the order shall not receive compensation or anything of monetary value for any consultation, lecture, discussion, writing, or appearance the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the Commission or which draws substantially on official data or ideas which have not become part of the body of public information.

(d) This section does not preclude an employee from:

(1) Participation in the activities of national or State political parties not proscribed by law;

(2) Participation in the affairs of or acceptance of an award for a meritorious public contribution or achievement given by a charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, non-profit educational and recreational public service, or civic organization; or

(3) Outside employment permitted under these regulations.

§ 706.12 Financial interests.

(a) Employees shall not:

(1) Have a direct or indirect financial interest that conflicts substantially, or appears to conflict substantially, with their Government duties and responsibilities; or

(2) Engage in, directly or indirectly, a financial transaction as a result of, or primarily relying on, information obtained through their Government employment.

(b) This section does not preclude an employee from having a financial interest or engaging in financial transactions to the same extent as a private citizen not employed by the Government, so long as it is not prohibited by

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law, the Executive order, or Commission regulations.

§ 706.13 Use of Government property.

Employees shall not directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of, Government property of any kind, including property leased to the Government, for other than officially approved activities. Employees have a positive duty to protect and conserve Government property, including equipment, supplies, and other property entrusted or issued them.

§ 706.14 Misuse of information.

For the purpose of furthering a private interest, employees shall not directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of, official information obtained through or in connection with their Government employment, which has not been made available to the general public.

§ 706.15 Indebtedness.

An employee shall pay each just financial obligation in a proper and timely manner, especially one imposed by law such as Federal, State, or local taxes. For the purpose of this section, a “just financial obligation” means one acknowledged by the employee or reduced to judgment by a court, and “in a proper and timely manner” means in a manner which the agency determines does not, under the circumstances, reflect adversely on the Government as the employer. In the event of dispute between an employee and an alleged creditor, this section does not require the Commission to determine the validity or amount of the disputed debt.

§ 706.16 Gambling, betting and lotteries.

Employees shall not participate while on Government-owned or leased property or while on duty for the Government, in any gambling activity including the operation of a gambling device, in conducting a lottery or pool, in a game for money or property, or in selling or purchasing a numbers slip or ticket.

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§ 706.17 General conduct prejudicial to the Government.

Employees shall not engage in criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct, or other conduct prejudicial to the Government.

§ 706.18 Miscellaneous statutory provisions.

Employees shall acquaint themselves with each statute that relates to their ethical and other conduct as an employee of the Commission and of the Government. The attention of Commission employees is directed to the following statutory provisions:

(a) House Concurrent Resolution 175, 85th Congress, 2d session, 72 Stat. B12, the “Code of Ethics for Government Service”;

(b) Chapter II of Title 18, United States Code, relating to bribery, graft, and conflicts of interest, as appropriate to the employees concerned;

(c) The prohibition against lobbying with appropriated funds (18 U.S.C. 1913);

(d) The prohibitions against disloyalty and striking (5 U.S.C. 73811; 18 U.S.C. 1918);

(e) The prohibition against the employment of a member of a Communist organization (50 U.S.C. 784);

(f) The prohibitions against the disclosure of classified information (18 U.S.C. 798; 50 U.S.C. 1905);

(g) The provision relating to the habitual use of intoxicants to excess (5 U.S.C. 7352);

(h) The prohibition against the misuse of a Government vehicle (31 U.S.C. 638a(c));

(i) The prohibition against the misuse of the franking privilege (18 U.S.C. 1719);

(j) The prohibition against the use of deceit in an examination or personnel action in connection with Government employment (18 U.S.C. 1917);

(k) The prohibition against fraud or false statements in a Government matter (18 U.S.C. 1001);

(l) The prohibition against mutilating or destroying a public record (18 U.S.C. 2071);

(m) The prohibition against counterfeiting and forging transportation requests (18 U.S.C. 508);

(n) The prohibitions against (1) embezzlement of Government money or property (18 U.S.C. 641); (2) failing to account for public money (18 U.S.C. 643); and (3) embezzlement of the money or property of another person in the possession of the employee by reason of his/her employment (18 U.S.C. 654);

(o) The prohibition against unauthorized use of documents relating to claims from or by the Government (18 U.S.C. 285);

(p) The prohibitions against political activities in subchapter III of chapter 73 of Title 5, United States Code and 18 U.S.C. 602, 603, 607, and 608;

(q) The prohibition against an employee acting as the agent of a foreign principal registered under the Foreign Agent Registration Act (18 U.S.C. 219).

Subpart C—Financial Reporting Requirements

§ 706.19 Statements of financial and property interests and outside employment.

Pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-521, referred to hereinafter in this subpart as “the Act”), the following officers and employees of the Commission are required to file annual reports of financial and property interests and outside employment if they have served 61 days or more in their positions during the preceding calendar year:

(a) Officers and employees (including special government employees, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202) whose positions are classified at GS-16 or above of the General Schedule, or whose basic rate of pay (excluding “step” increases) under other pay schedules is equal to or greater than the rate for GS-16 (step 1);

(b) Employees in the excepted service in positions which are of a confidential or policy-making character, unless their positions have been excluded by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and

(c) Each designated agency ethics official.

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§ 706.20 Time and place for filing of reports.

(a) Annual reports are to be filed no later than May 15 of each calendar year, except that persons assuming a position for which reports are required who have not immediately prior to this assumption occupied a covered position in another agency, must file a report within 30 days after assuming the position at the Commission. In the event an individual terminates employment with the Commission and does not accept another position for which reporting is required, the report must be filed no later than the 30th day after termination, covering:

(1) The preceding calendar year if the annual May 15 report has not been filed; and

(2) The portion of the present calendar year up to the date of termination.

(b) Reports shall be filed with the designated ethics officer (Solicitor) of the Commission. The reports of the designated ethics officer and nominees to and holders of positions which require confirmation by the Senate shall be transmitted by the Solicitor to the Office of Government Ethics of the Office of Personnel Management.

§ 706.21 Exclusion of certain positions from reporting requirements.

(a) Under section 201(f)(5) of the Act, a report is required of any person in the executive branch in a position excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policymaker character. An exemption is available, as provided below, for a person in any such position classified below GS-16 (or the rate of basic pay for which is less than the minimum rate of basic pay fixed for GS-16) who has no role in advising or making policy determinations with respect to agency programs or policies. Such persons may include chauffeurs, private secretaries, stenographers and those who hold positions of similar nature, consistent with the basic criterion set forth in the preceding sentence.

(b) The exclusion of any position will be effective as of the time the Commission files with the Office of Government Ethics a list and description of each position for which exclusion is

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sought, and the identity of its current occupant. Such a list must be filed with the Office of Government Ethics on or before the date on which such reports are due under the Act.

(c) In the event that the Office of Government Ethics finds that one or more positions have been improperly excluded, it will so advise the Commission and set a date for the filing of the report.

§ 706.22 Information required to be reported—reporting forms.

Information required to be reported by the Act shall be set forth in the manner specified in, and in accordance with the instructions contained in, Standard Forms issued by the Office of Personnel Management, to be used as follows:

(a) Standard Form 278—for use by an officer or employee filing (1) an annual report pursuant to section 201(d) of the Act, or (2) a departure report upon termination of employment, pursuant to section 201(e) of the Act;

(b) Standard Form 278A—for use by (1) an individual assuming a position for which reporting is required pursuant to section 201(a) of the Act; or (2) an individual whose nomination has been transmitted by the President to the Senate, pursuant to section 201(b) of the Act.

§ 706.23 Review of reports.

(a) Financial reports are reviewed by the Commission's designated Ethics official or the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, as appropriate. Reports are to be reviewed within 60 days after the date of their filing or transmittal to the Office of Government Ethics.

(b) After reviewing a report, the reviewing official is required to:

(1) State upon the report that the reporting individual is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and to sign the report;

(2) Notify the reporting individual that additional information is required to be submitted and the time by which it must be submitted; or

(3) Notify the reporting individual that the report indicates noncompliance and afford the individual a reasonable opportunity for a written or oral

response after which the reviewing official reaches an opinion whether the individual is in compliance.

(c) If the reviewing official determines that the reporting individual is not in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the reviewing official will notify the individual of that opinion, and after an opportunity for personal consultation, notify the individual of the steps which should be taken to assure compliance and the date by which such steps should be taken.

(d) The use of any steps to bring the individual in compliance are to be in accordance with regulations issued by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

(e) To assist employees in avoiding situations in which they would not be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the designated Commission ethics official is to maintain a list of those circumstances or situations which have resulted or may result in noncompliance and the lists are to be periodically published and furnished to individuals required to file reports under this Act.

§ 706.24 Public access to financial disclosure reports.

(a) Pursuant to section 205(b) of the Act, each report will be made available for public inspection within 15 days after the report is received by the agency, whether or not the review of the report prescribed by section 206 of the Act has been completed.

(b) Pursuant to section 205(b) of the Act, as amended by Pub. L. 96-19, the following rules are applicable to public access to financial reports:

(1) A financial disclosure report may not be made available to any person nor may a copy thereof be provided to any person except upon written application by such person stating:

(i) That person's name, occupation, and address;

(ii) The name and address of any other person or organization on whose behalf the inspection or copy is requested; and

(iii) That such person is aware that it is unlawful to obtain or use a report:

(A) For any unlawful purpose;

(B) For any commercial purpose, other than by news and communications media for dissemination to the general public;

(C) For determining or establishing the credit rating of any individual; or

(D) For use, directly or indirectly, in the solicitation of money for any political, charitable, or other purpose. Any application for a report shall be available to the public during the period in which the requested report is available to the public.

(c) Requests for copies of financial disclosure reports of officers appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as well as nominees to such offices and designated Commission ethics officials, may be directed to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

(d) To gain access to or to obtain a copy of a report filed with the Commission, an individual should appear in person at the office of the Solicitor of the Commission, 1121 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20425, during the hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and complete an application form. Requests by mail should contain the information described in paragraph (b) of this section, together with the signature of the requester. Requests which do not contain the required information will be returned. Notice of the statutory prohibitions on use will be attached to copies of reports provided in response to a request otherwise properly filled out.

PART 707—ENFORCEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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